

Joss House
45160 Albion Street
Mendocino
Mendocino County
California

HABS No. CA-2235

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDITIONAL
FOOTNOTES

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE CALIFORNIA	COUNTY MENDOCINO	TOWN OR VICINITY MENDOCINO
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Addendum to: JOSS HOUSE		HABS NO. CA-2235
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 45160 Albion Street Assessor Parcel #119-235-02		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) probably 1854 (oral history) on Sanborn maps by 1883		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Mendocino Joss House is the only remaining Chinese joss house in use in California north of San Francisco and south of the Oregon border. This simple structure possesses great structural integrity and is a significant remnant of the once-large Chinese community in Mendocino.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) vernacular frame structure, rectangular, gable roof		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) redwood - walls are sheathed in shiplap siding		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 14 feet x 30 feet		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The temple sign reading "Military God, Kings Temple" in Chinese characters can still be seen above the entrance (gold characters on a red background).		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) There is a wooden altar on the north wall. In front of the altar is a small table which holds food offerings for special occasions. Behind the table is a shrine containing a cloth picture of Kwan Dai, the deity to whom the temple is dedicated. A small stove located in the southwest corner is used for the burning of prayer papers.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The building has not been significantly altered.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The building is in good condition and is used as a joss house.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Joss houses are small temples used for prayer, birth celebrations, marriages, and community activities. The Mendocino Joss House was declared a California State Landmark (#927) in 1979.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Mendocino Historical Research, Inc.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleanor F. Sverko, County of Mendocino		DATE May 28, 1986

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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